## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109169 ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 PM-05 DODE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 /040 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/LIC-17/BGGARNER:SS APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:RBEDDINGTON JSC/AC/HECLEMENTS (PHONE) NASA/LIC-17/WGBASTEDO

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R 282118Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO JOHNSON SPACE CEN ATTN AC/MR CLEMENTS/CA/MR ABBEY
HOUSTON TEX

UNCLAS STATE 109169

E.O. 11652N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR NASA FERRY MISSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH RMS PROJECT

- 1. IN CONNECTION WITH NASA CANADIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NRC), COOPERATIVE REMOTE MANIPULATOR SYSTEM (RMS) PROJECT BEING DEVELOPED BY NRC FOR USE ON THE NASA SPACE SHUTTLE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR NASA PERSONNEL TO VISIT ACILITIES, GET TRAINING ON RMS SIMULATOR, PARTICIPATE IN DESIGN REVIEWS, ETC. SOME OF THESE VISITS WILL INVOLVE U.S. ASTRONAUTS W;O WILL USE SYSTEM DURING ACTUAL SHUTTLE FLIGHTS. ASTRONAUTS MUST BECOME FAMILIAR WITH EQUIPMENT AND PRACTICE ON SIMULATOR.
- 2. VISITS BY ASTRONAUTS WILL NORMALLY INVOLVE FLIGHT IN T-38 TRAINING AIRCRAFT TO MAINTAIN PILOT PROFICIENCY. UNCLASSIFIED

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SCHEDULING OF THESE FLIGHTS, HOWEVER, CANNOT BE MADE A MONTH IN ADVANCE TO MEET CANADIAN CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.

3. SINCE T-38 FLIGHTS WILL INVOLVE ONLY FERRY MISSIONS, NASA REQUESTS EMBASSY DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH CANADIAN

AUTHORITIES TO SEE IF ALTERNATIVE CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

CAN BE WORKED OUT FOR THIS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WHICH WAS CONFIRMED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTES.

- 4. CONFIRMING TELECON BY COL. EDDINGTON, NEXT SCHEDULED FLIGHT WOULD BE NEXT WEEK, MAY 1 4, BY ASTRONAUT WILLIAM LENOIR TO USE RMS SIMULATOR. LENOIR WOULD ARRIVE TORONTO MONDAY AND DEPART WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY. TAIL NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE KNOWN AHEAD OF TIME, BUT WILL BE ONE OF THE NASA-OWNED AND MAINTAINED T-38 JET TRAINERS USED FOR ASTRONAUT TRAINING.
- 5. PILOT WILL, OF COURSE, FILE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLAN.
- 6. PERIODIC VISITS WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR AND NEXT PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF RMS TO NASA. WE ESTIMATE ROUGHLY 80 FLIGHTS USING T-38 OVER NEXT 24 MONTHS, PROBABLY 2 EVERY OTHER WEEK. MOST WILL INVOLVE FLIGHTS INTO TORONTO INTERNATIONAL, BUT THERE MAY BE OCCASIONAL ONES INTO OTTAWA AND MONTREAL.
- 7. REQUEST EMBASSY OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR NEXT WEEK'S FLIGHT AND DISCUSS OVERALL PROBLEM WITH CANADIAN AUTHORITIES. THREE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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- A. GRANT NASA BLANKET CLEARANCE FOR T-38 FERRY FLIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS RMS PROJECT ON STIPULATION THAT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLANS FILED.
- B. ALLOW NASA TO FOLLOW ICAO OR FCG PROCEDURES WITH-OUT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUESTED.
- C. ALLOW SYSTEM WHEREBY CABLE NOTIFICATION ONLY REQUIRED NOT FORMAL EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES. NASA HAS INDICATED THAT 3 4 DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE COULD BE GIVEN.

8.IV ADDITION TO CLEARANCE PER PARA 4 ABOVE LENOIR HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA TO STOP IN OTTAWA TO REVIEW NRCC DEVELOPED HARDWARE FOR POSSIBLE USE IN SPACE SHUTTLE OPERATIONAL TEST FLIGHT. NRCC CONTACTS MR. CARL DEUTSCH OR GARY LINDBERG. IF CANADIAN OFFICIALS HAVE NO OBJECTION LENOIR WILL RETURN TO U.S. VIA OTTAWA MAY 2 OR 3. PLEASE ADVISE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, SPACE PROGRAMS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 28 apr 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE109169
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: 17/BGGARNER:SS Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780184-0570

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978043/aaaaacjz.tel

Line Count: 113 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: b604efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN NASA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** 

Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2888252 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: TSPA, US, CA

To: OTTAWA Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b604efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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